



Homeland
Security

Fact Sheet: Program Pilot

GOAL OF ATLANTA PILOT TEST OF US-VISIT:

- Test fingerscanning and digital photography equipment
- Test software, procedures, communications and computer systems
- Evaluate public information materials and assess reaction of travelers involved in the test
- Gauge time requirements for new entry procedure
- Identify any other issues prior to the January 5, 2004, national deployment of US-VISIT at air and seaports.

HOW THE TEST WAS CONDUCTED:

- Test began November 17, 2003, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- Test covered arriving visitors on all flights from Central and South America, Europe, Asia and South Africa
- Visitors informed about test via boarding cards, airport signage, Customs and Border Protection Officers
- Customs and Border Protection Officers requested permission from the visitor and then guided them in taking digital “fingerscans” of two index fingers and digital facial photographs
- Identity of visitor was confirmed

RESULTS OF ATLANTA PILOT TEST

- More than 20,000 visitors were processed on a voluntary basis, prior to conversion to mandatory processing on January 5, 2004
- Fewer than 1 percent of the visitors processed encountered problems requiring further processing
- Test confirmed program’s ability to enhance security:
 - Visa fraud was discovered on several separate occasions
 - Several visitors were matched against an FBI criminal database
- Test confirmed the program’s ability to facilitate legitimate travel:
 - Additional procedures added an average of 15 seconds

NEXT STEPS

- Nationwide implementation on January 5, 2004, of US-VISIT’s entry procedures at 115 US airports and in cruise ship terminals at 14 US seaports.

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